

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 06698 230859Z  
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00  
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 /034 W  
-----082768 230907Z /11  
P R 230720Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4108  
INFO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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E.O 11652: N/A  
TAGS: EAIR, AS  
SUBJECT: CIVAIR:REACTIONS TO POSTPONEMENT OF TALKS WITH GOA

REF: A) STATE 212218 B) CANBERRA 6630

1. AS COULD BE ANTICIPATED, THE PRESS REACTIONS TO THE POST-PONEMENT OF THE GOA -USG CIVIAL AVIATION TALKS HAVE BEEN GENERALLY OF A TONE TO POOR MOUTH AND BAD MOUTH THE UNITED STATES. THE CANBERRA TIMES OF AUGUST 23RD HEADLINED THE ITEM "CARTER SHOWING LITTLE REGARD FOR SMALLER NATIONS". IN HIS PARLIAMENTARY COMMENTS, TRANSPORT MINISTER NIXON SAID: "A NEW AVIATION POLICY ANNOUNCED BY THE U.S. PRESIDENT, MR. CARTER, DID NOT SEEM TO HAVE MUCH REGARD FOR THE INTEREST OF THE SMALLER NATIONS OF THE WORLD." IN REPLYING TO A QUESTION, HE SAID THAT: "MR. CARTER SEEMED TO BE TAKING THE APPROACH THAT AMERICA, WITH A POPULATION OF 240 MILLION PEOPLE AND CONTROL OF ALMOST HALF OF WORLD'S AIRLINES, COULD GO ITS OWN WAY ON AIRLINE POLICY."

2. EXPANDING ON THIS, NIXON SAID FURTHER: "I BELIEVE HE IS TAKING A "LET HER RIP" APPROACH, BELIEVING THAT THE AMERICAN COMPANIES CAN WITHSTAND ANY COMPETITIN AND NOT HAVING MUCH REGARD FOR SMALLER COUNTRIES SUCH AS AUSTRALIA AND MANY OTHER COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD, AND  
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NOT TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THEIR PROORITIES AND THE VIEWS THEY MIGHT HOLD ON THE MATTER."

3. THE MELBOURNE AGE OF AUGUST 23 REPORTED: "PROSPECTS FOR LOWER AIR FARES TO THE U.S. RECEIVED A SETBACK YESTERDAY WHITH THE POSTPONEMENT OF TALKS BETWEEN AMERICA AND AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENTS."

4. THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD WAS MORE RESTRAINED. FULL SUMMARY RELEVANT PRESS COVERAGE THIS ISSEU BEING REPORTED SEPTTEL.

5. COMMENT: PETER LANYON, PANAM REP HERE REQUESTED INFORMATION FROM EMBASSY ON REASONS FOR POSTPONEMENT OF TALKS. WE TOLD LANYON THAT OUR INFORMATION WAS THAT THE USG HAD RESPONDED TO INDISTRY REQUEST BUT WE DID NOT TELL HIM THAT THIS WAS AT REQUEST OF ANY PARTICULAR AIRLINE OR INDUSTRY. WE SUGGESTED THAT PANAM'S WASHINGTON OFFICE NO DOUBT HAS ALREADY BEEN BRIEFED ON THE REASONS FOR THE DEFERMENT AND SUGGESTED THAT HE INFORM HIS SYDNEY OFFICE TO THAT EFFECT.

USICA PREPARED PROMPTLY TO PUT OUT APPROPRIATE BACKGROUNDER ON THIS ISSUE IF THE DEPARTMENT CAN GET A SUMMARY OUT TO US IMMEDIATELY.

ACTION REQUESTED: AS IS OFTEN THE CASE HERE, THE PRESS IS TURNING THIS POSTPONEMENT INTO ANOTHER PERFIDIOUS ACTION BY THE USG AND WE BELIEVE IT WARRANTS EARLY ACTION ON OUR PART TO SCOTCH THIS.  
ALSTON

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, MEETINGS, NEGOTIATIONS, AVIATION AGREEMENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 23 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Film Number:** D780344-0650  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Subject:** CIVAIR:REACTIONS TO POSTPONEMENT OF TALKS WITH GOA  
**TAGS:** EAIR, PGOV, AS, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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